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One Comments--NSC Briefing on Soviet Approaches
in Middle East

1. Bring the substance of VIII (Israel) up after V.
2. Insert after old VIII a summary section, viz:

Thus immediate threat of Soviet tactics is to the twin current US objectives in the Middle East:
 - a. Arab-Israeli settlement: Arms deal in particular will heighten tensions.
 - b. Building a defense scheme: Egypt getting lots of arms will result in invidious comparisons with handful of hardware given Iraq in return for joining northern tier scheme.
Also, anything that heightens Arab-Israeli tensions makes defense progress that much harder.
3. Totally lacking from this piece are the one or two relatively cheerful things to be said about Egypt and the arms deal;
 - a. Nasr is no Communist, will endeavor to hold the Soviets at arms length at least as much as he has resisted our influence.
 - b. Delivery of these arms will strengthen Nasr internally --placate the hotheads in his regime, and possible give him the confidence to be more moderate toward Israel. He has long protested that he would like to negotiate with Israel but only from a position of strength. We don't believe he really wants war.

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